



FREDERICKTOWN COMMUNITY

JOINT EMERGENCY AMBULANCE DISTRICT

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When discussing COVID-19 the question always comes up, “how has COVID-19 affected you?”. It affects almost all aspects of my life. Working in the Emergency Medical Community we are either directly treating patients with COVID, extra cleaning of the trucks and station, evaluating best practices for treatments of COVID patients, assisting with managing levels of PPE, not just for our department but throughout Knox County and the list goes on. The pandemic has pulled many resources, including myself in directions we normally would not go. Other projects and areas have suffered because of the time and resources now devoted to the pandemic.

The promise of the vaccine lends itself to the proverbial “light at the end of tunnel”. One of my greatest fears is bringing my work home with me, so to speak. I do not want to find out I have spread this disease to anyone, especially the ones I protect at home. The fact that all of us can work together towards the goal of stopping this pandemic gives me hope. And I hope, in earnest, people will take this seriously and consider getting the vaccine.

As discussions go around and around about the vaccine, we hear these two arguments frequently, “how can we trust this when we can’t even get a flu vaccine to work?”. COVID-19 is a very stable disease as compared to variations of the flu which differ widely from year to year. We are using best guess techniques to identify and attack which variant of the flu will be prevalent in any given year. COVID-19 is known, and it seldom changes, making “attacking” the disease easier than the flu. The second concern we hear, “there is not information, or it has been too soon for a vaccine.” Coronaviruses have been around long before the pandemic broke. Previous coronavirus research provided a huge jump start on the vaccine process. The fact that it has been around and previously studied gave researchers unprecedented information they would not have with a new disease.

Our/my biggest concern as the pandemic marches on, will enough people take the vaccine. Will enough people take responsibility in stopping the spread and stopping this disease? We have been given the tools, the answer was provided, will people do the right thing for the right reason and end this pandemic?

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Lanuzza', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Rick Lanuzza